

What is claimed is:

1. A method for auto-associating a medical device with a patient, comprising:

5 equipping a patient with a patient transmitter/receiver chip
 having a patient ID number, capable of short-range
 transmission;
 supplying a medical device equipped with a device
 transmitter/receiver chip, capable of short-range
 10 transmission;
 placing the medical device and the patient in proximity;
 transmitting a request for patient ID command to the patient
 transmitter/receiver chip from the device
 transmitter/receiver chip;
 15 transmitting the patient ID number to the device
 transmitter/receiver chip from the patient
 transmitter/receiver chip; and
 sending the patient ID number to a medication management unit from
 the medical device.

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2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
 associating the medical device only to the patient based on the
 patient ID number sent to the medication management unit.

25 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:
 dissociating the medical device from the patient based on a command
 from a user.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of: matching
 30 the patient ID number with a medication order prescribed for a
 patient at the medication management unit.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the medical device is a first medical device and the device transmitter/receiver chip is a first device transmitter/receiver chip, and further comprising the steps of:

- 5 placing a second medical device in proximity to the patient;
supplying the first device transmitter/receiver chip with a first device ID number, and the second device transmitter/receiver chip with a second device ID number;
- transmitting a request for device ID command to the second device
- 10 transmitter/receiver chip from the first device transmitter/receiver chip;
- transmitting the second device ID number to the first device transmitter/receiver chip from the second device transmitter/receiver chip; and
- 15 placing the second device ID number in a memory of the first medical device.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of: sending the patient ID number from the first medical device to the second

20 medical device.

7. The method of claim 5, further comprising locking the medical devices to a specific patient ID number and not associating the medical devices with another patient ID.

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8. The method of claim 1, further comprising locking the patient ID with a specific medical device and not associating the patient ID with other medical devices.

9. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of: associating the medical devices only to the patient based on the patient ID number sent to the medication management unit.

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10. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of:
dissociating the medical devices from the patient based on a
command from a user.

5 11. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of: matching
the patient ID number with a medication order prescribed for a
patient at the medication management unit.

12. A medication management system for auto-associating a medical
10 device with a patient, comprising:

a patient transmitter/receiver chip having a patient ID number,
capable of short-range transmission and adapted to be secured
to a patient;

a medical device having a device transmitter/receiver chip capable
15 of short-range transmission, a processor and a memory coupled
to the processor, the memory containing programming code
executed by the processor to:

transmit a request for patient ID command to the patient
transmitter/receiver chip from the device
20 transmitter/receiver chip, and
send any patient ID number received by the medical device to
a medication management unit; and

wherein the patient transmitter/receiver chip transmits the
patient ID number to the device transmitter/receiver chip in
25 response to the request for patient ID command when the
patient transmitter/receiver chip is within proximity to the
medical device sufficient to receive the request for patient
ID command.

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